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Professor Knapp gives us a good account of the history of English grammar, but he gives small intimation that the greatest need of this subject is revolution, swift and sweeping if need be, but revolution at all events. He does not point out that our so-called English grammar is at present but a Latin graft on an English root, that it is consequently out of touch with English itself, and that it is, moreover, hopelessly behind both in psychology and logic. He does not show the confusion that has entered the subject because of these facts. When it is learned that out of twenty-five grammars fortuitously selected, Mr. Rounds finds nine different answers to the question, what is the construction of "good" in the sentence "He is good?" and eighteen for the same question about "red" in the sentence "We painted our barn red," we may surely conclude that the subject needs reconstruction in root and branch. It is not so much the abstract in grammar that is the cause of its difficulty, as the confusion that has arisen because of the present state of the subject. If a cyclopedia gave us help on such matters, it would be more widely used.

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PASSY, LOUIS. *Histoire de la Société Nationale d'Agriculture de France.* Vol. I, 1761-1793. Pp. 470. Paris: Philippe Renouard, 1912.

In 1911 the National Agricultural Society of France celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. On that occasion the author, who is the permanent secretary of the society, announced that he was preparing a complete digest of the society's proceedings in two volumes. This is the first volume, which deals with the work and influence of the society from its origin in 1761 to the time of its temporary dissolution during the reign of terror in 1793.

While this volume, therefore, covers only a little more than thirty years of the 150 of the society's existence, it would seem to deal with the most interesting period of its history and certainly presents information which would be most difficult to secure unless one had complete access not only to the original minutes of the society and its published and unpublished memoirs, but also to the archives of the French government to which the author had frequently to resort for necessary information for filling gaps.

During the period of which this volume treats, the Society of Agriculture accomplished much for the improvement of French rural life. Many of its members possessed large estates on which they lived and where they experimented, coming to Paris to attend the meetings, present papers, and take part in discussions. It was through the efforts of one of its members, Parmentier, that the potato was successfully grown and became generally adopted for human food instead of being altogether used for live stock. Many of the problems of modern agriculture engrossed their attention, such as drainage of swamp lands, irrigation, fallowing, culture of meadow lands, testing different varieties of plants and various fertilizers, control of insect pests and plant diseases, improvement in farm implements particularly the plow, the breaking up of uncultivated land, the best methods of cultivating large plantations, soil analyses, progress in veterinary science, animal breeding, forestry, plant introduction

and acclimatization, silk culture, horticulture, gardening, and projects of rural economy and sociology. For the best results and as a means of encouraging experiment the society offered prizes. It not only had its regularly elected members, but correspondents in all parts of France. In this way the Society of Agriculture had a practical and scientific influence throughout France.

To American economists interested in the history and development of agriculture, this volume forms a rare treat. The society exists to-day as the most famous and one of the oldest in France. The volume gives in a readable and interesting manner not only an account of the proceedings of the society, but also the efforts of its members to promote practical and scientific agriculture as a means of improving the economic and social conditions of the period. These were confessedly bad as is well known. This need was clearly recognized by members of the Society of Agriculture, many of whom are now named among France's foremost citizens who, nevertheless, fell victims to the revolution and the reign of terror because of their having been associated with royalty or because of their being of aristocratic descent. In such times their devotion to agriculture and the improvement of rural conditions availed them not.

With the reign of terror occurred the dissolution of the society. Here the volume closes, citing in a few pages the names of its members who, though proscribed, escaped from France, those who perished, and the particular lines of agricultural practice and rural economy in which the most illustrious members were interested. In the words of the author, these pages form a fitting close to the life and history of the Society of Agriculture for the time being, whose laborious and glorious activities were interrupted by the political events of the troubled period of 1793.

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VON PEEZ, ALEXANDER, und DEHM, PAUL. *England's Vorherrschaft aus der Zeit der Kontinentalsperre.* Pp. xx, 381. Price, m. 8.50. Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1912.

This is an interesting historical work by a journalist and man of affairs who frankly avows that in regard to the great European struggle of the Napoleonic era he proposes to write a book that will give attention altogether to material and commercial conditions. He "would say those things which the others have omitted or failed to give due prominence." Hence we have emphasis laid upon such subjects as the industrial development in England as a basis for her triumphant participation in the great struggle; the dominance of English commercial interests in determining her policy, particularly in connection with the resumption of the war in 1803 when it was found that the peace of Amiens made no provision for the admission of English manufactures and colonial wares into the countries controlled by France, thus continuing to carry on the policy of exclusion as before; the Orders in Council and Napoleonic Decrees, the license trade and smuggling; the place of neutrals and neutral trade; the economic causes back of the defection of Russia; reconstruction in France under Napoleon; the good business—"gute Geschäfte"—England made as a result of the